Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Our workmen are given 15 days' casual leave, extraordinary leave on holidays, sick leave on production of medical certificate, furlough, pensions, etc. In Madras, no leave of any kind is given. It is true they give pension. By comparison it is said that our task-workers are better off than elsewhere.

The scheme of Constitutional Reforms.

446. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether in the reign of His Highness the Ex-Raja any scheme of Constitutional Reforms were drawn up, outlined or considered or made the subject-matter of any correspondence by the Government, and if so, whether a copy of it will be placed on the table;

(b) if there was no such scheme, whether the Government had any correspondence about Constitutional Reforms to be introduced in the State, and, if so, whether the whole correspondence will be placed on the table?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) and (b). There is no official correspondence on the subject.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What is the meaning of the term "official correspondence"?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It is a well-known term. It cannot be explained. It does not require any explanation.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I have not been able to follow this term "official correspondence" as distinguished from "non-official correspondence", so that I may put my supplementary question.

President.—You want to know what official correspondence is. Ordinarily speaking, we have official correspondence, demi-official correspondence and confidential correspondence, and we have got separate files in regard to these—the official correspondence, demi-official correspondence and confidential correspondence files, so that there is distinction between them. The difficulty is you have not done much of ordinary routine work in any office. Then, you could have understood these terms. I expect all of you to take part in the administration one day and know all this routine work.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know whether there was any demi-official or confidential correspondence in this matter?

President.—Whether there is or not, we cannot disclose it. The facts or the contents of the correspondence cannot be disclosed.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know whether there is any correspondence?

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President.—The existence also cannot be disclosed.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Whether in the reign of the Ex-Highness any scheme was drawn up for Constitutional Reforms?

President.—There must be correspondence in which all these things should appear. Any official correspondence in which this is drawn up?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—After drawing it up, is there anything?

President.—A little office experience will show that there is no connected file of Constitutional Reforms. You have simply to say "if any part is there, the file would show. There is no file relating to this matter at all."

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—No file at all?

President.—No office file.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Whether any scheme has been drawn up by the Ex-Highness?

President.—No official scheme.

The Draft Constitution.

447. **Mr. A. B. Salem.**—1. Will the Government be pleased to inform.—

(a) the date on which the Diwan of Cochin received from Mr. K. T. Mathew, Member for Kunnamkulam, a petition addressed to him, while seated in the Presidential Chair of this Council, containing the Draft for a Constitution for the better Government of Cochin;

(b) the number of them that have signed the same;

(c) the names, standing and status of the signatories to the communication or petition;

2. will the Government be pleased to place a copy of the same with the names of the signatories printed on it on the table;

3. (a) will the Diwan be pleased to state when the same was submitted by him for the consideration of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin;

(b) if the same has been submitted for the consideration of His Highness, will the Diwan be pleased to place on the table His Highness' gracious commands on the same?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(1), (2) and (3). The subject-matter under reference falls within the exemption stated in section 11 (m) of the Legislative Council Regulation and clause (a) Rule 7 (1) of the Council Rules, and is, therefore, outside the province of the Council.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I appeal to the Chair. You have allowed the request, and in doing that I presume you have con-

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